

New Hampshire Institute For Local Public Health Practice at the Manchester Health Department

Core Public Health Concepts

Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to public health concepts and practice by examining the history, organization, functions, interventions and results of public health practice at the national, state and local levels. The course also addresses important health issues and problems facing the public health system. New Hampshire-specific case study examples are highlighted throughout the course.

Target Audience:

This course is suitable for all levels of public health and health agency workers.

***This course is strongly recommended for those who have no formal education in public health and for those who wish to take subsequent courses through the NHILPHP.**

Course Instructors:

Phillip Alexakos, MPH, Environmental Health Supervisor, Manchester Health Department

Fred Rusczek, MPH, Public Health Director; Manchester Health Department

Anna Thomas, MPH, Community Epidemiologist and HAN Coordinator, Manchester Health Department

Course Length:

This course consists of eight lessons. Each lesson will take three hours to complete.

Reference Book (Provided):

Bernard J. Turnock, MD, MPH; *Public Health: What It Is and How It Works, Third Edition*

Participant Assessment:

All course participants will be given a pre-test to evaluate the level of subject matter knowledge of the group/class as a whole. Participants may choose to remain anonymous for the pre-test only. To successfully complete this course, all participants will be required to pass a comprehensive written examination on content covered within the course. Course content will be covered through a variety of media. Listed below are the types of assignments and activities that all participants will responsible to complete.

- Pre-test based on lesson objectives
- Reading assignments
- Case-study analyses
- Group activities
- Post-test based on lesson objectives
- Course evaluation based on competencies and course objectives

Course Overview:

LESSON I – What is Public Health?

- Historical Overview of Public Health in the U.S.
- Images and Definitions of Public Health
- Challenges of Public Health
- The Value of Public Health - Achievements

LESSON II – Defining and Measuring Health

- What is Health?
- Determinants of Health
- Analyzing Health Problems for Causative Factors
- Measuring Health
- National Objectives: Healthy People 2010

LESSON III – Medicine and Public Health

- Medicine versus Public Health
- The Healthcare System in the U.S.
- Future of Healthcare in the U.S.

LESSON IV – Law, Government, and Public Health

- Government and Public Health
- Law and Public Health
- Governmental Public Health Practice – New Hampshire
- Emergency Preparedness: The Role of Public Health Professionals

LESSON V – Core Functions and Public Health Practice

- Public Health Functions and Practice (before the IOM Report)
- Impact of the IOM Report
- Post IOM Report Initiatives
- New/Emerging Initiatives and Models

LESSON VI – Public Health Infrastructure

- Public Health Infrastructure
- Public Health Resources – Human, Organizational, Information, Fiscal
- Healthy People 2010 Infrastructure Objectives
- National Initiatives to Increase Capacity

LESSON VII – Public Health Interventions

- Interventions, Programs, and Services
- Categorizing Programs and Services of Public Health
- Evidence-Based Public Health Practice
- Program Management in Public Health – the business model

LESSON VIII – Future Challenges in Public Health

- Public Health System – Infrastructure and Resources
- Why We Need a More Effective Public Health System?